Postage to foreign countries added THE SUN. New York City. Paris-Klosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Klosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for on wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Is Gen. Wood to Be" Whitewashed"?

As we said a few days ago, it is of high importance to Gen. Wood, as well as to the country, that there should be such an investigation of the charges against him as would convince the general public either that he was innocent or that he was guilty. A declaration by the Military Committee that the charges were, as Secretary Root declared last March, "without just foundation," would, in the face of that which has been given to the public, leave a very great number of our people with a conviction that Gen. Wood had been "whitewashed" as a result of

Administration influence. While the examination now going on is presumably a secret proceeding, information is certainly furnished from some source. This information, being of a semi-illicit nature, must at all times be open to suspicion on the point of its accuracy, although it is known that not a little of it has been, in general, quite accurate. Nevertheless, doubt remains, and suspicion always attaches to secret proceedings on matters in which the public is actively concerned. This method of investigating may be in the interest of Gen. Wood, but it is certainly not to his advantage. Nor can it be rightly regarded as in his best interest. Rectitude has no fear of any searchlights. If Gen. Wood's course and career have been blameless and honorable that fact is certainly susceptible of full demonstration, and neither he nor his friends should fear the fullest publicity. The least that can now be done is to give the public an opportunity to review the testimony before final action is taken in the matter.

So far as the witnesses are concerned. up to this time, all agree that they have encountered a hostile atmosphere in the committee room. It has been openly declared that Senator FORAKER, a shrewd and able lawyer, is conducting the case for the Administration. His attitude is that of an advocate rather than a judge. It may be said that a feeling that the case has been prejudged by a majority of the committee is the principal ground upon which the opponents of Gen. Wood have declared their intention to make their strongest fight on the floor of the Senate. in executive session if they must, in open session if they can. It is of interest to note that, thus far,

no sound or valid argument has been advanced in support of Gen. Wood's confirmation. Little or nothing has been urged in favor of his promotion beyond the facts that: He has been appointed by the Presi

dent.

He is the senior Brigadier. His rejection would be seriously in-

jurious to a long line of officers whose advance is now blocked by delay in the case of Gen. WOOD. The point of promotion because of

seniority is entirely untenable. Seniority promotion in the case of General officers is not an invariable custom and is not necessary or imperative under the law. Paragraph 21 of the Army Regulations declares that "Appointment to the grade of General officer is made by selection from the army." Under the rules, a Second Lieutenant may be jumped to a Major-Generalcy.

Facts one and three find an interesting commentary in this extract from the President's recent message: "The only people who are contented with a sys-

tem of promotion by mere sentority are those who are contented with the triumph of mediocrity over excellence. On the other hand, a system which encouraged the exercise of social or political favoritism in promotions would be even worse."

It is no secret that the President's appointment of Gen. Wood for the present promotion is due in no small measure to his personal interest in that officer. Would Mr. ROOSEVELT go so far as to assert that the promotion of Gen. Wood is a triumph of excellence over mediocrity? If so, Heaven send us aid in a time of war!

Much force has been given to the argument of injury to other officers by delay in their confirmation. This is a far-fetched argument. No injury is at all necessary, and were such to follow it is readily remediable as an act of justice. But the point has been well played by the supporters of Gen. Wood for the purpose of arousing the active selfinterest of these officers to bring into play all influence which they may posess to secure the confirmation of Gen. Wood in order that their places may be made secure. Over their heads there has been suspended a belief that their fare depended upon the fate of Gen. Wood. This is not the fact. They be at once confirmed and Gen. Woop be held in suspense pending the determination of the charges preferred against him. Or, they may all be held in suspense, under their recess appointments, until next month, when the retirement of Gen. Young and the promotion of Gen. CHAFFEE will create another vacancy, to which Gen. Kobbé might well be promoted and the suspended officers follow in the line of his

promotion instead of that of Gen. Wood. A feeling prevails in Washington, in both political and army circles, that are to be regarded as the opponents of the President, and that the friends of Gen. Wood will show their friendship for the President by sustaining the appointment of Gen. Wood. A direct appeal is thus made to self-interest, to

tion. Private or personal interests have no proper place in Government proc-

The confirmation of Gen. Wood is now a matter of wide public attention. Let us have a full, frank and impartial investigation, open to public knowledge and free from any fear or favor. Only so can the interests of right and justice be served, right and justice to Gen. Wood as well as to the country.

Herbert Spencer.

By the death of the author of the Synthetic Philosophy" the Englishspeaking world has lost a thinker who occupied a unique position in the history of nineteenth century speculations. It could not be said of HERBERT SPENCER that he was a first hand explorer in any field of biological or chemical research; but he turned to far-reaching uses the discoveries made by other scientists, deducing from them conclusions that he wove into a comprehensive system, which, on the theory of evolution, professed to explain all the phenomena of organic and inorganic existence.

It was in the volume of "Principles of Psychology," published by SPENCER in 1855, that the doctrine of evolution began to take definite form, and to be applied to various departments of inquiry. It was not until four years later, a fact not to be overlooked by those who would estimate correctly the relation of SPENCER to DARWIN, that the publication of the latter's "Origin of Species" afforded a wide basis of scientific truth for what in SPENCER'S treatise had been matter of surmise and of hypothesis. That hypothesis was upheld, however, by evidences, drawn, not merely from biology, but from many other sources. Moreover, while the Darwinian theory of natural selection, supplemented, as it was, by the adoption of the Lamarckian factors—the effect of use and disuse, and the assumed transmissibility of acquired characters-merely attempted to explain the mode in which the changes in organic life have taken place upon the earth, the evolutionary hypothesis put forth by Mr. SPENCER purported to be applicable to the whole sphere of the knowable. The truth, propounded as early as

1850 in "Social Statics," that all organic development is a change from a state of homogeneity to a state of heterogeneity, was regarded by Spencer himself as the procreative and organizing principle of his subsequent beliefs. It was not until ten years afterward that Spencer issued a prospectus in which he set forth the general aim and scope of a series of writings which were to be issued in periodical parts, and would collectively institute a system of philosophy. He lived to complete almost the whole of the colossal task, although for many years ill health incapacitated him for persistent application. In 1862 appeared the "First Principles," and five years later the "Principles of Biology." In 1872 the "Principles of Psychology" was published; the first part of the "Principles of Ethics" in 1879, and his "Principles of Sociology," in three volumes, begun in 1876, was finished in 1896. In the preface to the third volume of the last named work, the author explained that the fourth volume, originally contemplated, which was to deal with linguistic, intellectual, moral and ling was remarkable because of the great æsthetic phenomena would have to remain unwritten by reason of the author's | more, and the distinction of the speakers. age and infirmities. Yet, although, to achievement for which we are indebted conspicuous in the Presbyterianism of trial and commercial systems, that to Spencer is of astounding magnitude. New York a generation ago, and even To Americans it is a pleasant recollection half a generation ago, also was remark- McKinley was referring particularly to the that the importance of the speculations able. What has become of the old Pres- need of expanding our trade with South embodied and coordinated in the "Syn- byterian families? They have not died America.

in the United States in the "Principles of Ethics," and which hundreds assembled on Monday evening from constitutes the culmination of the Spencerian system, is, fundamentally, a corrected and an elaborated version of | Is its rule too austers for the social tastes the doctrine propounded in "Social increasing wealth and spreading fashion Statics," issued more than half a century ago. The correspondence between the two works is shown by the agree- when Presbyterianism was strong, if not ment of their cardinal ideas. As in the dominant, among members of the bar of one, so in the other, man, in common New York, in other learned professions with lower creatures, is held to be capable of indefinite change by adaptation to conditions. In both he is regarded as undergoing transformation from a nature appropriate to his aboriginal ence was great-grave, dignified, imwild life to a nature appropriate to a posing figures in New York society. settled civilized life; and in both this Social recreations now looked on as aptransformation is described as a mould-propriate even for the pious were under ing into a form fitted for harmonious the Presbyterian frown, and society cooperation. In both works the mould- therefore was held in restraint by it. ing is said to be effected by the repression | Theatregoing was unfavorably regarded of certain primitive traits no longer needed, and the development of needful | Concerts were allowed, but attendance traits. As in the first work, so in the at the opera was looked at doubtfully, last, the great factor in the progressive modification of man is shown to be sympathy. It was contended in "Social especially at balls, provoked censure. Statics," as it is contended in the "Principles of Ethics," that harmonious social. cooperation implies that limitation of has been relaxed very greatly; yet mere individual freedom which results from fashion seems not to have been concilsympathetic regard for the freedom of liated; and perhaps, therefore, Presbyothers; and that the law of equal freedom is the law in conformity to which equitable individual conduct and equi-

table social arrangements coexist. HERBERT SPENCER'S position with reference to the fundamental postulate of religion was at one period misconceived. It has been for some time recognized, however, that he could not be fairly described as a materialist. He was no more a materialist than he was a of the winter in New York, nor did it theist. He was in the strictest sense of the word an agnostic. He was the most conspicuous example of the thing before HUXLEY invented the word. Nothing, in truth, could be more absurd than to apply the epithet "materialist" to a man who wrote in "The Principles of Psychology": in New York and renewed vigor and "Hence, though, of the two, it seems aggressiveness. In the last census of easier to translate so-called matter into | church attendance the Presbyterian, as so-called spirit than to translate so-called the whole question has now reached a spirit into so-called matter (which latter point where the opponents of Gen. Wood | is, indeed, wholly impossible), yet no translation can carry us beyond our

symbols." HERBERT SPENCER was privately educated, an aversion to linguistic studies | First come the Catholics, second the putting a university career out of the question. At the age of seventeen he terian family. hope of reward and to fear of reprisals. | began work as a civil engineer, but about This is no proper basis for the determi- eight years afterward gave up that pro- guest, of course, was the Rev. Dr. COYLE nation of such matters. Public interest | fession, and subsequently devoted the

or to the discussion of philosophical subjects. About his private life we know even less than about that of KANT, and it is doubtful whether he has deemed it tellectual development of the West, worth while to leave behind him the materials for a detailed biography.

A Fogyish Superintendent.

Dr. NATHAN C. SCHAEFFER, Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Bourbon, an educational hunker. The fire of modern methods does not burn in his withered veins. He sits contemptuously apart from the new studies. Arid, aloof, incurious of contemporary triumphs, he is not ashamed to put into his annual report this surprising and regrettable opinion:

"In adjusting the individual to civilized life no studies are of equal importance with the traditional three Rs.'

Pray, who and what is "the individual"? We don't believe there is "no sich a person." Units have been counted out. Millions exactly unlike have taken

unfortunate predecessors. The three Rs may have done their trivial service in a ruder, more unformed, more severely commercial and practical age; but they belong to the Old Red Schoolhouse period. There are old men and women who mastered these absurd subjects and thought they had enough. In these "cultured" times people want something more, and they want it ornamental. In Chicago there are wise children who study municipal reform, street cleaning methods, the scientific disposition of garbage and other fascinating branches of sociology, the universal science. Even in less thoroughly modern communities there is diligent cultivation of music, drawing and many arts and sciences that decorate and embroider the vouthful intellectuals. What is the sense of writing in a world of typewriters? What is the use of reading in a world of phonographs? And if arithmetic be merely useful to clerks and bookkeepers and so on, it is unbeautiful and unworthy of an æsthetic generation. Merchants complain that most of the boys who reply to the advertisement 'Wanted!" are not the boys they want, can't "figure" or write well, and are only fit to be budding porters. This merely shows that merchants, a conservative class, are still full of the old superstition about the three Rs and need to go to

What Dr. SCHAEFFER should have written is this:

"In adjusting children to improved education all studies are of equal importance except the tra ditional three Rs "

English grammar itself is being adjusted. Curiously enough, it is returning to old habits. Happily freed from servitude to the three Rs, school children have reasserted an ancient prerogative of English speech. As they go home from school, full of various learning and laden with books, it is a joy to hear them scatter double negatives.

The Presbyterians at Dinner.

The annual dinner of the Presbyterian Union of New York on Monday evennumber of diners, three hundred and

The absence, however, from the list thetic Philosophy" was first recognized out for their names are still familiar in the lists of many social gatherings, The ethical doctrine which is set forth | though they did not appear among the at this great Presbyterian festivity. Have they abandoned Presbyterianism? have generated in them?

The time was, and it was not long ago. and in the ranks of the most considerable merchants of the town. The intellectual superiority of the Presbyterian pastors was unquestioned and their social influin many good Presbyterian families. if not reproachfully. "Square dances were admissible, but "round dances,"

As the social evolution of New York has gone on this Presbyterian austerity terians fond of the gayeties of the worldhave gone to it, since it would not come to them. Is that the reason for the appearance of so few of the names of the old Presbyterian families in the list of the men and women at the Presbyterian

dinner on Monday evening? Their absence, however, did not prevent a gathering which in numbers was notable among the great public dinners deprive the assembly of distinction. They may have sought society more congenial to their present tastes, or rather the tastes of their frisky young people, but the Presbyterian Church as a whole is now showing extraordinary vitality we remarked vesterday, was the third numerically among the religious denom-Reformed churches, cognate in doctrine, though somewhat different in order. Episcopalians and third the Presby-

At this dinner the most distinguished of Denver, Moderator of the General should be the first and only considera- whole of his time to scientific studies, Assembly. He is a man of a striking

personality, sturdily masculine and of a type which may be regarded as representative of the highest moral and inthough actually he is of Canadian birth. Dr. Coyle had been preceded as an after dinner speaker by Dr. John H. FINLEY, the new president of the College of the City of New York, whose remarks were enlivened, appropriately, with graceful and original humor. The reports of State of Pennsylvania, seems to be a the feast represent Dr. Coyle as having administered a rebuke to him for such frivolity on such an occasion. So far from that, Dr. COYLE himself began with a humorous anecdote, but afterward, as a reason for introducing gravity on a festive occasion, he said that as the representative of the Presbyterian Church he must deal with things the most serious; and he dealt with them with great ability and inspiring eloquence, as had also done President FINLEY himself, for underneath his jocoseness there was throughout profound and serious thought.

It was a gathering which, in its every their places; and these millions are not incident, inspired respect for the great to be fed on such scrannel stuff as the | Church of the Westminster Confession. three Rs, those foolish fetishes of our It showed that the old faith is still strong in New York and that zeal in its behalf has not cooled under the influence of religious indifference or social distraction.

> The rent bills of New York city and the counties of New York, Kings and Richmond for 1904 will foot up \$441,246, against \$397,285 appropriated for the same purpose for this year. Next year the State tax will amount to \$508,005. The State Board of Equalization of Taxes fixed the aggregate at \$3,892,352,126 for the collection of the canal tax for 1903. The New York city Tax Department put the value of real and personal property in the counties at \$5,-432.398.918 for the same year.

At the close of the fiscal year of 1903 there were 2.935 railway mail routes in use by the Post Office Department, with an aggregate length of 192,852 miles. The cost of transportation, or "annual rate of expenditure," annual rate of expenditure was \$8,463,197, or less than a quarter of the rate last year and only about a fifth of the amount which the Department will ask for the fiscal year ending with next June. Moreover, \$5,279,-323 was expended in 1902-03 for railway postoffice cars, and the aggregate of all transportation costs of 1902-03 was \$65,186,715. The estimate for 1904-05 of \$75,128,000 is a striking demonstration of the rapid growth of the postal business of the United States.

THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF PORTO RICO.

In the Light of Recent Developments in Panama.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: e may contemplate with gratification the value to ourselves, commercially, of this one of our water reached possessions, events are moving so rapidly in Panama and elsewhere in South America that Porto Rico's value to us strategically, has become a matter of prime In his inaugural address, September, 1901,

Governor Hunt pointed out the significance of the island's position. He said: "Transportation lines will multiply as relations grow more intimate, and the harbors of Porto Rico should contribute to this commercial ex-And President McKinley, in his nemorable speech at Buffalo, said:

"Our capacity to produce has developed so enormously and our products have so multiplied that the problem of more markets requires our urgent and immediate attention. Only a broad and enlightened policy will keep In these times of marvellous business energy and gain we ought to be looking to the future, be ready for any storm or strain."

In this pregnant paragraph President

America.
The strategic value of Porto Rico to the United States lies in its position on the map, which gives the island the control of the situation of the entire Atlantic tropics. The city of San Juan, with its fine harbor, while 1,389 miles from New York, is only 960 miles from Panama, measured from Colon, the Atlantic port of the new republic. The Mona passage, traversed by the ships of all nations, is only 120 miles distant by water travel from San Juan. The Windward Passage is only 450 miles distant to the west. Steamships from New York to Panama would pass thus near and could make San Juan a port of call without incurring much delay.
The fact that Porto Rico practically controls all steamship routes of the Atlantic tropics, the Caribbean Sea, and the West Indies, and also that the island could control all the cable communications of that part of the world, measures its geographical strategic value.

part of the world, measures its geographical strategic value.

An American fleet stationed at San Juan would control not only the West Indies, the Caribbean Sea, and the Atlantic coasts of South and Central America, but also the European steamsbip routes, the channels and massages of the Atlantic tropics, and would thus become the edvance guard and sentinel of the advancing United States in the waters south of us. A fleet so stationed would also be vithin easy call for the protection, when recessary, of our world. hin easy call for the protection, when

The physical geography of the island, with ts many channels and natural harbors, especially adapts the city of San Juan for service as a naval station and base. Geographical ocation and physical features have conspired a forming Porto Rico, and especially San Juan, into a natural and ideal strategic stronghold.

WALTER J. BALLARD. SCHENECTADY, Dec. 5.

The Postscript Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: Can a woman ome between the "ardent lover," "L. D. G.," and th nsane lady's friend, "L. T. H.," in their ridiculous If either of them could hear what the women who speak of their silly drivel say they would truly desire to be "the merest of men."

Why should women be definite? Do men like women who project thoughts into their peaceful world? Do they admire the woman who plays, so to speak, with her cards face up? Not since Adam.
The girl with the pretty smile and rosy cheek will attract them in droves, while the poor thing who thinks will be left to solitary mental blessedness. Naturally, during the last twenty centuries women have gradually acquired this knowledge and are beginning to apply it in various ways. One is by eliminating the "P. S." Time was when men like "L. T. H.," on receiving letters from women, "skipped them through," and then knew by reading the "P. S." what it was all about and with complacency adjudged themselves wise. Now, those times are over. Women make men choose rainbows in correspondence as in everything else, and therefore it is not due to mascu line twitting, but to admiration, that woman has given up her once favorite ending to letters

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.

No Heretics in the Methodist Church. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN Sir: The editorial accorrect and misleading. Practically the entire Methodist Church in this country, both clergy and laity, are strictly orthodox. There are so few ex-ceptions that one could visit every Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and hardly meet inations, if we join with it, as should properly be done, the attendance on the of the Hely Scriptures. Including every incldent and miracle, the Atonements, future reward and punishment,—are believed to day as thoroughly as they were believed yesterday, by the great mass of the Methodist Church at least, and, in my opinion, by the other Protestant churches.
Instead of there being "hundreds of ministers

the entire country. The fact that Prof. Bowne is on trial for his views is conclusive proof as to the

GOLDWIN SMITH ON HERBERT SPENCER.

The death of HERBERT SPENCER re moves from the scene a great intelligence and an eminent benefactor of his kind. His influence extended far beyond his own country. He had more readers in America than in Great Britain, and his works were translated into almost all the European languages. No one ever was more thoroughly dedicated to the pursuit of truth. For some years he was not only dedicated, but selfsacrificed, to it. The scantiness of Milton's payment for "Paradise Lost" is a byword. HERBERT SPENCER's early works required for their publication the aid of friends, and it is strange to compare his wages with those of the writers of second rate novels.

SPENCER is entitled to rank among discoverers, for he treated the mental development of men on the principle of evolution some years before the appearance of the "Origin of Species." As a moral philosopher he dealt with the moral and social nature of men by a method derived from his study of biological science. If the results of that method leave something to be desired when it is applied to the spiritual and æsthetic elements of humanity it was in itself sound as well as an antidote to chimeras and fallacies. In the conflict between SPENCER and

CARLYLE CARLYLE is logically annihilated; yet we feel that something perhaps not logical or biological is left. SPENCER was a thoroughgoing free thinker. He came at a time when the old tradivaluation of property in the four counties | tions and sanctions had been destroyed or undermined by science and criticism while nothing had yet come to take their place. But he was not destructive; on the contrary, he was a builder of morality and society on a biological foundation, and his work, if it is not destined to be final, will certainly be lasting. Nor was he an enemy of religion; his feeling toward the power which manifests itself in the universe was essenwas \$36,607,524. Twenty-six years ago the tially different from that which is excited by mere power and identical with that which forms the groundwork of religion. Still more did he deserve the epithet of religious in its comprehensive sense by his entire dedication of himself to the higher life and the disinterested pursuit of truth. Sint animæ GOLDWIN SMITH.

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

District Local Option for New York Advocated by a Noted Prohibitionist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Gen Thomas L. James some time ago told me that when he was a member of Garfield's Cabinet friend said to him one day in Washington "General, I have had a curious experience with your double. The other day I happened in a restaurant near by, and thought I saw you at one of the tables. I went to you and said, 'How are you, General?' The man, without looking up, replied, 'I am not Gen. James. The next day in the same restaurant I saw you at a table, and going over to you I slapped you on the shoulder, saying, 'General, I took an old galoot for you here yesterday man, without raising his eyes said, 'I am the same old galoot.' Mr. Jerome and his friends and some other

eformers, in their new plans to take the saloon out of politics, will discover that they have placed their hands on the same old galoot of temperance sentiment, mistaking it for what t is not. Two years ago Mr. Jerome told me that my plan of local option by election dis ricts was "utterly impracticable." He went to Albany last winter with his "practicable plan" of direct legislation for Sunday selling. He could his extent, a torso, the philosophical of the company of many family names strengthening the weak places in our indus- not muster a corporal's guard out of even the State Democrats to support his bill. One of the most prominent members of the upper House said to me, "Doctor, you need not come up here any more to oppose this bill. of this kind can never pass an Albany Legis lature." Why again undertake a needed reform along a line that is foredoomed to defeat and thereby delay the essential reform of getting the saloon out of politics so that a wise civic reform may have a better chance to be come permanent? Among the first considerations of a prudent General is practicability. Once more, it seems, the same old measures

1. Direct legislation for Sunday selling:

2. Local option for New York city as a whole, or as boroughs. As certain as the sun shines, these two measures will be opposed by every temperance organization of the State, every religious organization, Protestant and Catholic, ninetenths of the clergy, and by nearly the whole motherhood of the State. Against this seniment it is "utterly impracticable" to get the

timent it is "utterly impracticable" to get the Legislature to act. It is a sheer waste of precious time to try it.

There is open a course that has at least a chance of success: Appeal to the Legislature to submit next spring to a vote of the people in each election district in Greater New York these two questions at the same time:

Saloon license—Yes or no.
Sunday selling after 1 o'clock, P. M.—Yes or no.

Saloon itemse—les or no.

Sunday selling after 1 o'clock, P. M.—Yes or no.

The up-State members of the Legislature have voted local option by townships, and a township has about the same number of voters in it as has an election district in Greater New York. By this plan the Legislature is asked to extend all over the State a principle of local option that has been already recognized and is in force in a large part of the State. Township local option often makes a saloon legal on one side of a road and illegal on the other; so does the liquor zone provision in Minneapolis and St. Paul and other cities. The people are able to stand this "absurdity."

A bill to submit the Sunday question alone will be fought to its death as sure as it is presented. This may be the fate of the doubleheaded bill above suggested, but this bill will have in it something the liquor men like, andit will also have in it something the temperance men like. It is along the line of least resistance. True, the cry will go up from hundreds of pulpits: "What! Submit the Ten Commandments to local option?" Yes, God submits them to the vote of every individual: "Choose ye this day."

Local option by boroughs is not local option

mits them to the vote of every individual; "Choose ve this day."

Local option by boroughs is not local option which means decision by the jury of the vicinage. The Borough of Manhattan is as large as 500 townships, and as large as any one of half the States in the Union. It is no more reasonable for Fifth avenue to have the privilege of determining the saloon question for Five Points than it is for Eric County to settle for Suffolk county.

It must be remembered that Prohibition in

Pive Points than it is for Eric County to settle for Suffolk county.

It must be remembered that Prohibition in one form or another is in force in two-thirds of the townships of the State, and that against Sunday selling the voters, Republican and Democratic, are practically a unit. A dyedin-the-wool Prohibitionist cannot be fright-ened out of his conscience by fear of consequences to his party or to any other interest. He follows Carlyle's injunction literally: "Go to perdition if you must: but with a lie in your mouth—by the Eternal Maker, No!" But Jerome is proof against pessimism—pessimism, the exhalations of dving ambitions—no trace of that smell about our District Attorney. So, we shall doubtless see him again this winter butting his head against the stone wall up at Albany.

NEW YORE, Dec. 7.

A Criticism of the New Postage Stamps. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have before me a number of two-cent postage stamps of the new design. These'stamps are a great improvement over the former ones, which gave one the impres-sion that they were considerably wider at the bottom than at the top, though in reality they were not. My first impression of this new stamp was very good, but on looking at it a few minutes I was convinced that something was wrong, and I endeavored

to discover what it was Instead of there being "hundreds of ministers who are hereties," it is probable that there is not a single one in the Methodist Episcopal Church in in the wrong order. This shield has the white bars on the outside, which is a mistake. I know that to get the desired effect this was necessary, but why change the national shield for a new issue of stamps? PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5. P. M. OBSERVER.

3,000 PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Coast Survey Shows We Got More From

Spain Than We Supposed From a statement by George R. Putnar just printed in the National Geographic Magazine it appears that the coast survey in the Philippines is making satisfactory progress, though much must still be done. Mr. Putnam has been in charge of the work since it was started in January, 1901.

Two vessels and a number of launches are engaged in the surveys The well equipped modern survey steamer Pathfinder has been constantly employed since November, 1901. Its staff has charge of the more important harbor surveys. The difficulties of the work are increa

by the abrupt coral reefs along many of the shores, requiring constant watchfulness. It will be remembered that one of these concealed menaces to navigation brought disaster to the cruiser Charleston in 1899.

During the past year the Pathfinder has completed the important surveys of San Bernardino Strait and Albay Gulf, of San Pedro Bay and the southern coast of Samar, and has also made a thorough examination of the much frequented passage southwest of Leyte, where a danger to navigation had been reported. Among the latest harbor surveys are those at Cebu, Ormoc and Romblon.

The small wooden steamer Research has also made a number of harbor surveys on the west and southeastern coasts o Luzon and on Mindanao and Culion islands and is at present working on the coast of Chartered launches are also em-Negros. ployed in the quieter waters of the deep indentations, and by this means a survey of Lingayen Gulf has recently been com-

The work is directed from the office of the survey in Manila, where the preliminary charts are prepared, published by lithography, and distributed among the shipping. Seven pamphlets of sailing directions have thus far been issued and "Notices to Mariners" are printed from time to time, giving new information of immediate import such as dangers discovered, aids to navigation, and changes in the charts.

The entire lack of technical education in the Philippines has prevented the employment of natives in the survey work, but some of them are utilized in the office as draughtsmen.

Many parts of the coasts have as yet been only roughly sketched, while other surveys are controlled by triangulation and are sufficiently exact for all practical purposes. One of the best features of the work is that it has included surveys of many of the minor ports and their approaches, to which no attention was given in the British, Dutch and Spanish charts in use before our arrival in the Philippines.

One interesting result of the hydrographic work in progress for nearly three years is the discovery that we have a larger number of islands than was supposed. There are nearly 1,700 islands that are named and it is possible to count 3,000 islands and islets on the charts.

THE ANTI-CANTEEN SIDE. A Defence of the Anti-Canteen Law by Its Author.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your ditorial of Dec. 2 in favor of the restoration of the canteen as "a temperance measure" by which the soldiers would be kept from outside saloons, curiously overlooks the two most important facts in the case, first of which is that Congress has appropriated million dollars to furnish wholesome subtitutes for these outside resorts, in the form f gymnasiums and other amusements, which War Department has been slow to appropriation was made, and none of these olesome recreations being yet fully avail-Surely Congress will say, and every fairminded man will say, that nothing should be

done about restoring the canteen until the gymnasium policy has been fully and fairly ried. It should be remembered that in the British army, the officers being in full symtary efficiency, one-third of the soldiers have voluntarily become abstainers, and are very proud of their superior record for health and thletic endurance of which the commanding fficers make much in their reports. The other important thing which your ditorial, like most of those on that side of the question, overlooked, is that the navy.

after trying the canteen as a temperan neasure under Long and Roosevelt, abanloned it and has followed the other policy consistently and successfully for the suceeding years up to now, and at the Bremer. ton Navy Yard has shown how outside reorts can be suppressed when the authorities of the Department desire it. There is a great amount of patronage con-

ected with any military station, whe of army or navy; and by threatening to withdraw that patronage the dens that were corrupting our marines and naval employees ere very quickly suppressed through the influence of neighboring merchants and citi-

rupting our marines and naval employees were very quickly suppressed through the influence of neighboring merchants and citizens, who would otherwise lose much of the withdrawn patronage. Iff the word "beer saloon" were substituted for "canteen," the alleged benefits of the institution would at once stand out in all their real absurdit; but it is conveniently forgotten in the articles on behalf of this twice outlawed institution, that no part of the post exchange was interfered with by law of Cougress except the bar where the beer and wine were sold. All the other features of the post exchange were left untouched, but some military officers have discontinued the post exchange entirely, for the manifest purpose of creating a sentiment in favor of restoring the beer.

Your editorial refers to statistics given by Col. Church, but against his opinion we have the anti-canteen opinion of such men as Miles, Shafter, Howard, Wheeler, Boynton and many more soldiers. Every student of statistics knows that a man's prefudic will often make the figures tell the story that he desires. I have given much attention to this subject from the first, being the author of the first anti-canteen law, and I wish to assure you that there are no statistics that prove that the canteen diminished drunkenness or disorder or desertions, but to the contrary. Nor has the abolition of the army beer saloon increased the drinking of the soldiers. The evils that now exist in the army existed before the canteen was abolished, and if they have not diminished since the beer was prohibited, it is at least partly due to the fact, which every one can see who will examine the matter, that many of the military officers now on duty have been actively working for the restoration of the canteen and have not sincerely tried to enforce effectively the law of Congress.

To those who remember Tennyson's words on "The Light Brigade," in which he defines the attitude of the soldier as one of simple obedience to orders—Theirs not to reason why. Theirs not to make r

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.

The New Time Division.

Father-Mabel, I think that young man's calls are entirely too long. Mabel-Not at all, father; we take constructive THE OLD CUSTOM HOUSE.

Marvellous Bargain Struck by the National City Bank.

From Yesterday's World.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The National City

Bank of New York has its usual item of \$130,000 "for rental of old Custom House" in the estimates of appropriations sent Congress to-d Government has paid this rental, and in four years more the Government will have pail the National City Bank more than the pur chase price of the property rentals, without ever having received a dollar from This agreement was entered into in August. 1890. The purchase price was \$3,265,000. The National City Bank is a Government

depository, carrying Government deposits of never less than \$15,000,000. The bank in payment for the old Custom House site notified the Government that it had denosited balance due of \$50,000, to avoid the paymen With this payment the United States will in rentals alone \$783,600. In addition, it has New York. Taxes and water rents on the Custom House property would amount to about \$75,000 a year, but as the Government became a party to the scheme and permitted the \$50,000 balance to remain, the title is still vested in the United States and taxes cannot be collected. This has been a saving \$450,000.

During all this time the United States has had to keep the old custom house in repair, more than \$4,000 having been spent last year in repairs.

In addition to the rental from the Government and the taxes saved by the National City Bank, it receives 4 per cent. per annum in-terest on the Government bonds which it deposited with the United States to guarantee the \$15,000,000 of Government deposits. This in itself amounts to some \$600,000 a year. and for six years, during all of which time i has never had less than that amount, amounts to \$3,600,000, or more than enough to pay for the custom house site.

But the National City Bank did not need that, for counting 4 per cent. interest only on the United States bonds deposited with the Treasury to protect the deposit with itself of its own check of \$3,215,000 for six years the amount would be \$783,600, plus the rental of \$783,600, making the account stand at the end of this, the sixth year: Paid National City Bank in rentals for

six vears \$783 600. Paid National City Bank interest on Government bonds to secure Government de-Saved National City Bank in taxes, water

Total. \$2.017.200. But this is not all. The contract with the National City Bank calls for the occupancy of the old custom house site for at least four years more, which at the same rate would amount to an additional \$1,344,800. This will make a total to the National City Bank

in ten years of \$3,362,000, or almost \$100,000 more than the bank originally agreed to pay for the property.

British Rule in India.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: I am glad that "An Aryan Hindoo from Bengal" has found a valiant supporter in Morton H. Smith, whose letter you publish this morning. But I am afraid Mr. Smith's valor is not backed by the force of facts and authority His only authority is himself and his facts are his jaundiced views about things in India gained during his three years residence in that country-breathing in the atmosphere of and mixing familiarly with the very Anglo-Indians at whose door my friend Mr. Barakatullah lays his charges. Those charges still stand good, despite Mr. Smith's reiteration of some of the hackneyed smooth statements of the complacent Anglo-Indian when taken to task for the misery and misrule in India by an outsider innocent of all knowledge about that distant part of the globe.

But even a quarter of a century residence n India, without studying the problems of Indian life independently of Anglo-Indians and without coming into free and friendly contact with Indians, is of no avail to pass an authoritative opinion on the subject of the effect of British rule in India. Even the skip ping globetrotter who mixes with the people intimately during his short sojourn is better acquainted with real facts of Indian life, while proves a veritable ignoramus, when put to the test, in regard to his knowledge of native India and is shunned for his overbearing manners by most homestaying Englishmen

In my letter I did not offer a single opinion myself. I simply quoted the views and senti-ments of some of the most distinguished Englishmen, Anglo-Indians and native Indians, as expressed by them in London on the ist of November last. From that solid array of authoritative opinion Mr. Smith singles out and takes exception to the words I quoted from the letter to the meeting of the Posi ivist Society of Mr. Hyndman, on the ground that Mr. Hyndman is a Socialist and hence

that Mr. Hyndman is a Socialist and hence his opinion is worth nothing.

But what about the opinions I quoted, dwelling on different points, of Sir Henry Cotton, the retired Chief Commissioner of Assam, of F. H. Shrine, retired Commissioner of Chittagong and of S. S. Thorburn, retired Commissioner of Upper India—three of the brightest lights of the Indian-Civil Service? What about the opinions of W. C. Bonnerjee, one of the brightest lights of the Calcutta Bar and for some time Standing Counsel to Government and Member of the Bengal Council, and also those of Mrs. Bradfaugh Bonner, Dr. Bridges and Mr. Sharman?

Mr. Smith simply reschoes the now exploded rigmarole about the benefits of the telegraph, the railroad, education, Christianity and the disadvantage of caste, child marriage, &c.

marriage, &c. NEW YORK, Dec. 4.

Personal Experience of Marriage Related. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I am 80 years old of athletic tastes and in full health. I met a young girl, not over pretty-from my ideal-but apparently affectionate, home loving, fond of

music, good literature and outdoor life, her great feature being apparent love for children. I wooed, won and married her—to find I was tied to a totally different kind of girl!

having her own way, does not care any more for athletics, music or literature, wants to be on the go all the time or have the house full of her friends not mine. She is the coldest blooded proposition I ever met. Too late, I find her treatment of her mother was anything but what it should have been, but of course the mother could not be expected "to stand in her daughter's way: marriage might change her." So long as I let her have her own way, do not "bother" her, I am admitted to a con-descending, far away intimacy, to which my companionand with my dog is that of twins. When approached the subject of personal supervision the household I was told I "should have married a cook or housemaid:" when I remonstrated on other matters I was told something equally perti NEW YORK, Dec. 6.

A New Idea in Church Decoration.

From the Church Economist. The Grace Baptist Church, or the Baptist Temple of signature inscriptions about the pulpit an

A dado of encaustic tiles is run around the walls of the main auditorium, within easy reading limits and members can have inscribed in this imperish able medium their names by making a slight contribution to the debt of the church. The simple signature, on a small brick, costs but \$1. Large spaces cost \$5. Still larger squares, corresponding more to the conventional tablet, cost from \$20 upward. A double row of colored marble squares

in front of the pulpit platform with a suitable carve inscription costs \$500 each.

As people show their desire to have their names imbedded in the very structure of their church, the woodwork along the wall is removed and another. section of inscribed tiles put in place. Thus the work goes on continually. A catalogue with i cations indicated, tells in a moment where to find

any given name. As a plan for realizing a large sum of money be appealing to the loyalty and interest of a church constituency it has worked admirably, and might be duplicated with equal success elsewhere .

ROOKS

earily over "I've been has a job in a li he said. "Th there who wall the corridor ticed her the stitution and " 'Oh, I'm I'm catching

stop walking "Well, I see hand despon "Man's Plac the most not Dr. Alfred R the dean though 80. is into one of t battles. Whe theological vi the univer him hip and his theory he has met every

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